

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT VIENNA 3618 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN BRUSSELS
BUCHAREST HELSINKI LONDON MOSCOW OSLO PARIS ROME SOFIA WARSAW
03 MAY

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENNA 3618

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CSCE, SCUL, GW

SUBJECT: WARSAW EUROPEAN YOUTH CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 79832

1. PRESIDENT OF AUSTRIAN NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL (ANYC) FRANZ
BITTNER INFORMED EMBOFF 30 APRIL THAT HIS ORGANIZATION MIGHT
DECIDE NOT TO ACCEPT CENYC'S INVITATION TO ATTEND WARSAW
YOUTH CONFERENCE IN JUNE. HE SAID THERE EXISTS
VERY GOOD POSSIBILITY SWISS NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL MIGHT ALSO
MAKE SAME DECISION. HE SAID HE THOUGHT OTHER EUROPEAN
NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCILS, WHICH LIKE ANYC ARE CENYC
MEMBERS, ARE CONSIDERING SIMILAR STEP AND THAT THERE IS
ALSO SOME DIVISION WITHIN CENYC LEADERSHIP ON THIS SCORE.

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HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF CENYC'S
LATEST THINKING ON CONFERENCE BECAUSE HE WAS ON TRIP

TO ISRAEL WHEN 23-25 APRIL CENYC SEMINAR HELD. BITTNER SAID THAT IF ANYC DECIDED NOT TO ATTEND CONFERENCE, IT WOULD MAKE PULIC STATEMENT AS TO WHY IT NOT ACCEPTING CENYC'S INVITATION TO CONFERENCE.

2. BITTNER, WHO ATTENDED PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE IN SOFIA ON 10-11 APRIL, SAID REASONS WHY ANYC MIGHT REFUSE TO ATTEND CONFERENCE WERE TWO-FOLD. FIRST, OBJECTIONABLE TACTICS WFDY EMPLOYED AT SOFIA MIGHT BE EMPLOYED IN WARSAW. BITTNER SAID DELEGATES AT SOFIA CONFERENCE SAT AROUND FOR HOURS, WITH MEETINGS NOT STARTING UNTIL NEAR MIDNIGHT AND LASTING THROUGH THE NIGHT UNTIL MID-MORNING OF NEXT DAY. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, RATIONAL DISCUSSION OF ISSUES WAS DIFFICULT. FURTHERMORE, WFDY DELEGATES REFUSED TO OPENLY DISCUSS ISSUES BUT RATHER TALKED AROUND THEM. BITTNER NOTED IN WAY OF EXAMPLE THAT AT 4:00 A.M. DELEGATES WERE TREATED TO 45-MINUTE SPEECH BY A SOVIET DELEGATE ON TOPIC OF PEACE.

3. SECOND REASON WHY ANYC MIGHT REFUSE TO ATTEND CONFERENCE WAS DISSATISFACTION WITH THEMES TO BE DISCUSSED. BITTNER SAID THAT IF PURPOSE OF CONFERENCE WAS TO SAY EVERYTHING IS FINE IN EASTERN EUROPE, HE SAW NO POINT IN HAVING HIS COUNTRY REPRESENTED AT CONFERENCE. HE SAID ANYC IS NOW REVIEWING HOW MUCH MONEY IT HAS SPENT IN CONNECTION WITH TWO PREPARATORY CONFERENCES IN OSLO AND SOFIA AND WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED AT THESE MEETINGS, IN ORDER TO DETERMINE IF ATTENDANCE AT WARSAW IS JUSTIFIABLE.

4. BITTNER SAID THAT USYC WAS NOT MENTIONED BY NAME BUT IT IS GENERALLY ASSUMED THAT IT, ALONG WITH ASIAN YOUTH COUNCIL AND OTHER "NON-EUROPEAN REGIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS", WOULD BE INVITED ATTEND CONFERENCE AS OBSERVERS.

5. BITTNER SAID THAT FRENCH AND ITALIAN COMMUNIST YOUTH GROUPS LOST ARGUMENT, BEGUN AT OSLO, WHEREBY THEY WOULD HAVE DIRECTLY RECEIVED INVITATIONS TO CONFERENCE, RATHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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THAN THROUGH WFDY. ITALIANS SEEMED TO ADJUST BETTER TO IDEA OF ATTENDING CONFERENCE VIA A WFDY INVITATION, WHILE FRENCH WERE MAINTAINING THEY WOULD NOT ATTEND CONFERENCE UNDER SUCH CONDITION. BITTNER COMMENTED THAT AT OUTSET OF CONFERENCE WFDY CLEVERLY TOOK A LOT OF WIND OUT OF FRENCY AND ITALIAN ARGUEMENTS TO RECEIVE DIRECT INVITATIONS TO CONFERENCE BY ARGUING WFDY WAS DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION AND THAT IT HAD ROOM FOR ITALIAN AND FRENCH COMMUNIST YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS EVEN THOUGH THEIR VIEWS DIFFERED FROM THAT OF WFDY

LEADERSHIP. BUCHANAN UNQUOTE SISCO

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